

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
JANUARY 28, 2003
6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members present were Chair Hilda Testa, Vice-Chair Julie Aitken, Jacque Daniels, Jason Hurley, and Barbara Spiece. Board Secretary Jacque Daniels recorded the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 24, 2002

Vice-Chair Aitken made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, to approve the minutes of September 24, 2002. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Annual Report

The Board discussed the outline for the annual report, with Vice-Chair Aitken providing information regarding some of the Board's accomplishments prior to Chair Testa's appointment.

Vice-Chair Aitken discussed the progress of the Davie Farmers' Guide, explaining that the guide had been proofed by the proofreader. Chair Testa added that she had been informed by Town Administrator Thomas Willi that it had been forwarded to the printer. A brief discussion followed regarding the "guide" with the Board expressing disappointment at the length of time it had taken for the "guide" to be presented to Council. Ms. Spiece suggested attaching copies of the Hurricane Preparedness Guide and the Davie Farmers' Guide to the report. Chair Testa indicated that she would include the Board's goal for 2003. Vice-Chair Aitken commented that the Zoning in Progress should be mentioned in the report. Ms. Spiece inquired if the Zoning in Progress had been completed. Vice-Chair Aitken explained that two ordinances were passed, one related to the changes and architectural style, gates and gate guards and the other related to open space development.

Vice-Chair Aitken commended Marcie Nolan, Planner III and the staff of the Planning and Zoning Division for the excellent job they did in drafting the ordinance. She added that staff had included items in the ordinance that were not thought of by the Board such as rural corridors. Vice-Chair Aitken briefly described the rural corridors explaining that any new development had to have a setback of 100 feet from the road's edge. Mr. Hurley inquired if any interest had been expressed by developers in the open space development. Vice-Chair Aitken responded that the ordinance had been challenged by a developer who did not favor elimination of the gate guards, however, Council did not agree.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the definition of custom homes with Vice-Chair Aitken explaining that there was an anti-monotony clause written in the ordinance.

Chair Testa addressed the issue of nurseries and inquired if the Board could do anything to encourage more nurseries in the Town. Ms. Spiece indicated that insurance companies did not insure outdoor crops. Vice-Chair Aitken asked why farms in Broward County were not insured by the Farm Bureau. Mr. Hurley responded that there was presently a moratorium on policies in the County. There was a brief discussion regarding the promotion of nurseries within the Town. Vice-Chair Aitken suggested that the Board discuss ways of encouraging the Town to give priority to Davie nurseries rather than nurseries from other areas.

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Regarding goals for the year, the Board discussed educational programs for Davie schools and compiling a brochure for distribution to the schools. Ms. Spiece referred to educational programs and grants that were in place at the Farm Bureau which were not being utilized by teachers. Chair Testa suggested that the Town work closely with the Farm Bureau in the promotion of agricultural awareness among children. She added that future projects of the Board could include workshops or clinics to promote hobby farms and natural habitats.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the different projects that the Board would undertake during the year. Vice-Chair Aitken suggested compiling a brochure for hobby farmers similar to the Davie Farmers' Guide, and making a recommendation to Council for the preservation of equestrian areas with no deed restriction. She commented that the Town was no longer allowing developers to deed restrict horses out; however, there was no ordinance in place. Vice-Chair Aitken commented that the equestrian neighborhoods would have to be defined and suggested that Board members bring maps to assist in defining these areas.

Chair Testa referred to an article regarding the promotion of natural habitats on individual properties and explained how this was accomplished. Vice-Chair Aitken discussed the possible sunseting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and suggested that the Board take over where this Committee had left off.

3.2 Hurricane Protection for Horses

Chair Testa made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Aitken to table this item until the next meeting. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

3.3 Equestrian Deed Restrictions in New Developments

Vice-Chair Aitken commented that the deed restriction should include existing neighborhoods as well as new development. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the problems being experienced by riders from a property owner who was not partial to horses. Vice-Chair Aitken suggested that the proposed ordinance be a blanket ordinance for the entire Town. She added that in existing equestrian neighborhoods such as Oakhill, if properties were sold to people who were not partial to horses, horse owners could find themselves in the minority which would escalate problems. The Board discussed zoning issues and ideas for the ordinance, with Chair Testa suggesting that Board members present ideas at the next meeting for drafting a new ordinance.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Aitken provided an update regarding a court ruling by Monroe and Dade Counties concerning horse board and training. She also indicated that Broward County Property Appraiser William Markham was requesting permission from the Department of Revenue to file a lawsuit against the Value Adjustment Board, naming all properties that were granted agricultural

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classification by the board in 2001 and 2002. Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that the lawsuit was contingent upon permission from the Department of Revenue. She added that she hoped to have additional information at the next meeting.

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Mr. Hurley expressed concern with the condition of a trail at Orange Drive and Nob Hill Road near Long Lake Estates. He indicated that there was no traffic light at the crossing and the danger not only to riders but to drivers exiting the two developments. Chair Testa commented that this location had been a concern and a County meeting had been held regarding County wide signage to address not just horse trails but other areas as well. She added that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was responsible for the delay. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus that since the Board was not aware if this issue had been addressed by the Open Space Advisory Committee, the Board would handle it.

Chair Testa suggested that Board discuss ways to attempt to persuade the FDOT to move forward. She suggested that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Hurley referred to an activity at Robbins Lodge recently, Rocket Day, and commented that rockets and horses were not compatible. He expressed the opinion that the Town should be concerned as there was potential danger involved. Mr. Hurley referred to the limited liability signs posted by the Town on riding trails which quoted Florida State Statutes. He indicated that the signs did not appear to meet the requirements of the Statue as the letters appeared to be too small.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member

